

RECKLESS RALPH'S

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.
Published by Ralph F. Cummings, Box 75, Fisherville, Mass., U. S. A.
Price \$2.00 per year

Ad Rates: 5c per word, 75c per inch, quarter page \$2.00, half page \$3.00, full page \$5.00. Four times for the price of three.

Vol. 17

August 1949

No. 203

THE LESLIE PUBLICATIONS

by the late Geo. H. Cordier

Of all the publications of popular literature that lived in the bygone days, the greatest in many respects, were the Leslie publications. The name was a household word all over the United States, and it shall be the endeavor of the writer to give to the readers of the present generation some idea of the charm and color that distinguished all the productions of the famous firm. Frank Leslie was a big figure in the journalism of his time. He started a score of publications with woodcuts and stories but all only slightly different; they would be recognized as brothers at a glance. The writer will give a list of the different publications issued by the well known firm. First of them all was the Popular Monthly. The writer is the happy owner of thirty volumes of that famous magazine which have been a source of pleasure, happiness, and instruction, for over sixty years. All the Leslie publications were distinguished by a certain romantic, picturesque charm. This was best to be felt in the old quaint illustrations. The old woodcuts. The Leslie firm had the finest and best wood engravers of the time to be found in the United States. And as one turns the time yellowed pages of the old magazines a certain spell casts its magic over the reader, and the distant past lives again to thrill the reader of the present time. The Popular Monthly well deserved its name. It published articles of general interest together with serials by famous authors. The writer well remembers seeing the first

numbers as they appeared on the news stands. He was a very little boy at the time—January 1876—but he conceived a love at that time that has lasted all the rest of his life, and will continue to the end. The year of their first appearance was notable by a number of interesting events. The great Centennial, The Custer Slaughter, The Russo-Turkish War, the death of the Prince Imperial in Zululand, were only a few in the news of the time. Before he goes further, the writer will describe the manner in which the little dime novels were handled.

On the counters in the newsstands were compartments and in them were stacked the hundreds of the little books to be looked over by the general public. How the collectors of the present day would enjoy having them to handle as they came fresh from the presses on to the newsstand, to be eagerly grabbed up by the waiting readers? The writer had quite a stack of the little dime novels, and has over a couple of hundred of the larger sizes together with others of the Beadle publications. We never tire of them and have read them off and on during many years. But to resume our description of the Leslie publications.

The following are the titles of some of the serials that appeared in the Monthly in the early years of its existence:

The American Countess.
Not Guilty.
The Amber Witch.
The Letter "S"
A Whited Sepulchre
The Beautiful Countess of Charville.
A Dark Deed.
The Death Mask.

The Man Outside.

Prince Lucifer.

Artificial Fate and others.

The Monthly was also distinguished by having a frontispiece in colors, generally of some charming female whose beauty lent enchantment to the magazine.

Next in line for description was The Chimney Corner, a weekly devoted to stories, special articles, and general literature, and also noted for its fine illustrations.

Besides the ones we have endeavored to describe, Leslie published the Ladys Magazine, The Sunday Magazine and Pleasant Hours. The latter being a smaller edition of the Chimney Corner.

Now we come to the publication dear to the hearts of lovers of thrilling literature young or old, and that was The Boys and Girls Weekly. The writer has the greater portion of the numbers from 289—1871 to 905—1884. The latter being the last number of the famous old weekly. It was first published in a small size, and afterward enlarged to regular story paper style.

The writer will now proceed to give some of the titles of the stories that appeared in the Boys and Girls—before it was enlarged.

Jack Rusten, or, Alone in the Pirates Lair.

All the Harkaway English stories.

All the Harkaway American stories.

True to Each Other.

The Ghost of Paul Priestly.

Phantom of the Prairie.

Jack in the Jungle

The Haunted Island.

Mischievous Matt.

The writer will now give the titles of stories published after the Weekly had been enlarged to regular size:

The City In The Everglades—A most fascinating story of Florida.

Trap and Trigger.

Si Warath, the Mysterious Boy.

Mazappa.

Sun Devil Fish.

The Born Athletic

Dick Light Among the Indians

Mysterious Hunter.

Missing Link.

A Brave Girl.

Stories Told By Torchlight.

The Boy Reporter.

Phil Physer.

Rufe The Shadow.

The Marked Boy.

Off To The War. A story of the Russo Turkish War of 1878.

Jack Firebrace.

Ghosts of the Buccaneers.

Haunted to Death; or The course of the shark. A splendid pirate story of the present day.

Heaps of Gold.

Slave of the Mine.

Long Jim, The Scout; or Death Valley

Of the Apaches.

Topsy-Turvey. The World Turned Inside Out.

The Mystic Three.

Tracked by a Pirate.

Cicaro The Second; or Talked into Bad Luck.

The Isle of Palms.

The Lightship of the Reefs.

Old Boy At Chippicook.

Scene Painter Sam, or Ghost of the Gun Room. A wonderful story.

Spider and Stump.

Dashing Dolores.

The Boy Boor

Seawaif; or, The White King of Nemigi. Being the marvelous and exciting adventures of youth, a monkey, and an elephant in the wilds of Africa.

Inventor Beny

Wandering Willie

The Young Turtle Hunters; or the Lost Treasure of the Haunted Lagoon. A magnificent story of pirates, treasure, and bloody vengeance on the Spanish Main.

The Pearl of the Sahara, another thrilling romance of the Desert and the great Sahara.

The Jude's Daughter.

Capt. Fiesbe and Home Base.

Two Young Heros.

The Kidnapped Boy.

Lone Wolf, the Apache Chief.

Cave in the Mountain.

Detective from Africa.

Pirates of the Treasure Ship.

Cruise of the Island Queen.

The Hobgoblin of Devils Hollow.

King of the Conjurers.

Karl Cutlas

Dragon of the Prairie. Fine story.

Left to Himself.

All the stories published in the Boys and Girls were distinguished by a certain unique quality that differed them from all others, and which held the attention of the reader to the very last.

In writing his lists of the Leslie

publications, the writer, through some strange error, overlooked the greatest of them all, Leslie Weekly Newspaper which appeared every Wednesday, and also Leslies Budget, a magazine of short stories. In writing his article the writer has been in hopes that he may have caught the attention, and given a thrill to some old timer who, like himself, loved all the Leslie publications, and well remembered the Monthly with its red and green covers, and all the remainder of the famous magazines, and feels a thrill, even after all these years, as he turns the time yellowed pages of the old Weekly, and all the others published by the loved and famous firm.

NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph Cummings

Who ever heard of a Boys Star Library that had 64 pages and sold for 5c. No. 117 did, and all one story too. Title—Torpedo Tom, or What a Yankee Boy Can Do, by Howard De Vere. Came out Sept. 14, 1889.

Charles Bragin, 1525 W. 12th St., Brooklyn 4, N. Y., will pay \$25.00 for the late edition Poole Directory of Directors.

H. M. Sender, P. O. Box 25, Kansas City 10, Mo., will pay \$125.00 for a good copy of Prose & Poetry of Livestock Industry (1905) Vol. 1.

This is a chance to make a few dollars, if you have what the above fellows want, Pards.

Don Learnard of Arlington, Mass., came down Saturday morning, July 23rd and went home the 25th, to see ye editor Cummings, and spent all day looking at novels and what not. Clyde Wakefield was down in the afternoon for a short spell. Sunday morning Don and myself were driven down to Eli Messiers at Woonsocket, R. I. After an hour there Eli drove us down to see L. C. Skinner at Pawtucket, R. I. We had a very nice talk on the old timers and things of interest, then we came back to Eli's.

And in the meantime, the LeBlanc's, father and son collectors, came up to Fisherville, but was told I was down to Eli's, so back they went, and was at Eli's, when we arrived from Pawtucket. Sure was a grand surprise all around. After supper we looked at Eli's novels, when the Le Blanc's sug-

gested we go down to their place, and they'd carry us both ways, so we all went down, five of us, Don Learnard, Eli Messier, Ed & Tilman Le Blanc and myself.

We had a fine time down there, a looking over the old timers, and so forth, and after some dickering on duplicates they had, we all went back to Eli's, and then we were taken home.

Don says he'll never forget this gathering. Don got a Pluck and Luck #170 The Red Leather Bag, that he has wanted for a long time, from Eli.

We want to thank Mrs. Messier for the fine supper we had there, and also Mrs. Le Blanc for the midnight lunch down there, also to Eli and the Le Blanc's for carrying us around in their machines.

At long last, "Boys Will Be Boys," by E. S. Turner, are here. Lots of good stuff in this book on Sweeney Todd, Deadwood Dick, Nick Carter, Buffalo Bill, and other novels, dreadfuls and old boys books of long ago, also many illustrations, too. Published in 1948. My price \$3.00 postpaid, and well worth it, too. Who wants a copy for their collection?

James Sullivan, successor to the M. J. Ivers & Co., was blind, and his wife is believed to be M. J. Ivers daughter.

Uncle Billie Benners always said that Oliver Optic's story on "Minding His Own Business," was the crises of the Golden Days success, and led to the fortune of James Eleveverson, publisher.

Mary Reed Crowell wrote for Beadles Saturday Journal. She was some pirate, for she took two of Mrs. Harriet Lewis' novels to make one of her own, and changed the locality to America. Mrs. Lewis was a good writer.

Nat D. Urner is Bert Brentford.

Rather the Reefer, was written by Edward Howard and attributed to Capt. Marryatt.

Fanny Williams was really Elsie Leigh W. and wrote a lot of novels. She was James Eleveverson's housekeeper. The first story she wrote is in Vol. 2, No. 25 of Golden Days.

Waldo Browne wrote under the names of Victor Stratford, Victor St. Clair and Arthur Winfield.

In 1881 Wm. J. Benners, Uncle Billee offered \$3000.00 for half interest in the Saturday Evening Post, but was rejected.

May Agnes Fleming wrote under the pen name of Cousin May Carleton. George Aiken also wrote under the pen name of George Lewel. Harry Enton wrote under the pen name of Frank Forest in *Young Men of America*.

Edward Stratemyer wrote under the pen name of Ralph Bonehill.

July 2nd Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dupiez made a flying visit up here in their car, and oh boy was it hot—Charlie began to wonder if this was really the hottest place on earth?

Wallace H. Waldrop, H. H. B. Member #197, has been working like a beaver, to try and find some publisher that will revive the old dime and nickel novels, and to get more of the adventure type of novel back on the market, but he hasn't had too much luck as yet. Although Grosset & Dunlap informs him that they will consider reprinting some of their old boys novels, and also bringing out some new stories of that type, he was informed by the John C. Winston Co. that they would be willing to reprint a lot of their old stuff if enough interest could be stirred up to warrant it. So if any of you old timers really want to see some of the old time novels back on the market, then you let the publishers know it. John C. Winston Co., Racine, Wisc.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Wakefield of Worcester, Mass. visited Wm. M. Burns of Rockland, Maine, July 10th.

CIRCUS CLOWNS IN COMEBACK—THEY HELP CALM WAR JITTERS (The Woonsocket Call—March 27, '42)

Sarasota, Fla.—The clown is making a comeback under the big top.

Long a circus fixture, the "Tanbark Pagliacci" gradually had been pushed into the background by more glamorous stars and features, until in recent years clown acts were little more than fillers for unavoidable pauses.

But all that has been changed in the 1942 version of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

"This country needs something to help combat the war jitters. That's what we attempt to give," says John Ringling North, executive head of the show.

And that's where the funny men come in—or back.

Two of the dozen "new super fea-

tures" will give clowns the center ring. One new act burlesques "The Marriage of Gargantua and Toto," the gorilla couple. Another features a ludicrous gent billed as "Harry, the five-story clown."

This does not mean however, that scores of big show standbys will be missing. They'll all be there, but in new dress.

The feature "spec" (sometimes called the walk-around) will be as colorful as ever, but pomp and pageantry have been subordinated to humor and gaiety in that opener.

Fifty elephants and a battalion of girls will appear in what circus press agents refer to as a pachyderm fantasy, "The Ballet of the Elephants." Fitting ballet costumes on an elephant herd—well, it can and was done!

Re-styling extends to the physical makeup of the circus where color and streamlining already have been introduced. The big top itself will stand out in a dazzling red, white and blue dress.

Fans will have to wait a while, tho, to see that tent without interior pole supports. Wartime priorities snagged plans for a canvas auditorium supported by towers and cables on the exterior.

"No itinerary curtailment is contemplated," North declared. "Only one star performer, Belmonte Cristiani of the famous riding family, has been drafted thus far."

FAVORITES OF YESTERDAY No. 4 ROSA N. CAREY By Hermon Pitcher

Like Louisa M. Alcott, this author had a wide following and a reputation of delightful romances for young people, with wise suggestions, and religious counsel interwoven in the plots.

Her books are written for older readers than were Miss Alcott's, and some of her titles include "Not Like Other Girls," "Uncle Max," "Esther," "Merle's Crusade," "Queenie's Whim," "Only the Governess," "Wooded and Married," "The Mistress of Brae Farm," and "Life's Trivial Round."

To anyone who has read her books, her love for young girls, her strong religious feeling, and her practical sense are most evident. She so constantly lived her religion that her duty and devotion to her family came

before anything else.

She was the daughter of wealthy parents, and her childhood, with her five brothers and two sisters, was spent in Hackney, England. In later years she lived in an Elizabethian house at Putney, in a neighborhood full of historical romance.

Rosa Nouchette Carey was much beloved by all who knew her. The world mourned her passing in February of 1909, at the age of 41 years.

DIME NOVELS

Their Morals and Influences

Dear Sir:

Sometime ago I noticed a brief item in your *Bannerettes* column concerning Dime Novels and their influences. I want to echo just what the correspondence says—that of all age boys I knew in my own boyhood days those who had the taste for the dime novels are the ones who have risen above the plodders.

There are things far more hurtful to boys than any novel could be, I well remember the first novel I read. It was an Indian story—Indians were then in fashion and I devoured the thrilling paragraphs with avidity and keen relish. It left its impression of course. I had the highest respect for the brave hero and the dauntless heroine while a feeling of honest love was aroused for Old Nat Something or other the jolly old Indian fighter. And it was greatly to my delight that the villain of the story was finally killed as he deserved to be.

That novel created a desire for more and I procured more and read them, novels of land and sea. As a direct result I found myself dipping into United States history which before I had shunned and from that to a Life of Napoleon. The true Dime Novel the Beadles Dime Novel was the stepping stone. The more I read the more I craved and anything that came in my way was eagerly pursued. Obligated to quit school at an early age, I should have been sadly illiterate, but for the Dime Novel and its awakening. I have read a bushel of them at least in my day and I never found one that was hurtful in any way.

Looking back I recall five or six boys who shared my Dime Novel pleasures with me. Of these, one, a poor boy went away to school work-

ing to pay for his tuition. He worked his way through the school and entered college, still working. He spent nine years in all and is now a clergyman in the Congregational Church. During his last year at school he sent home directions concerning the disposition of a trunkful of Dime Novels. Another of the five became a printer, is now in a large establishment in New York City and is one of the "lights" in a church of the City of Churches. Yet another occupies a high position in one of the large drug houses of Philadelphia. Another who began with nothing is owner of a large store is doing well and is superintendent of a Sunday School. One more perhaps the worst of all as boys go, is a Methodist preacher.

ALL of these used to sit by the hour in a hay loft and pore over Dime Novels.

And myself, well I am an humble writer of Dime Novels! My early reading is paying fair returns in interest upon the capital invested. I have a growing family around me and my children are welcome to the Dime Novels whenever they begin to crave it. I, on my parts shall see to it so far as my own tales are concerned.

I am no "old fogey" and can not put myself in my boys place. If they, in two or three years crave novels as I did they shall have them. As I feasted my boyish mind upon "Nat Todd," "Eagle Eye," "Bill Biddon," "Alice Wildfire," "Gold Hunter," "Jo Davies Client," "Reefers of 76," "Scalp Hunters," etc., etc., so if they want to feast theirs upon the "Deadwood Dicks," "Broadway Billys," and the "Detectives," of their days.

There is an intellectual outburst in the life of every boy when truly, the facts be known the Dime Novel has exerted a broader influence for intellectual awakening than can readily be realized it is (I speak only of the Beadles Dime Novel or Half-Dime Novel) and always has been on the side of the truth, honor, justice and while the story proper is usually exciting and of the "thrilling" sort it has a teaching to impress that in seven directions of good morals and a correct life. Of two "evils" we are told to choose the least and were I to choose for my family between Dime Novels and daily newspapers I would take the Dime Novels every time.

BANNERETTES

From a pleasant sketch in the Kansas City Star of one of our authors, John H. Whitson. We have heard a writer must live in or near New York or Boston or some other literary center in order to succeed, but does not hold good in the case of John H. Whitson of Finney County, Kansas, far out towards the Colorado line, and almost on the edge of No Mans Land. Mr. Whitson is a slender, thoughtful deep-eyed man of thirty-six with long writer's hands and a high forehead. His home is on a Government claim fifteen miles from a railroad and three or four miles from a post office. There in his den he turns out a supply of fiction which not only supports himself and wife but adds constantly to an already respectable bank account. Mr. Whitson is so well versed in human nature by his varied experiences as lawyer, journalist, traveler, and rancher, that his works are always bright, strong and suggestive. He is a conscientious and rightminded and

hence fit to be a purveyor to popular literature, our kind of popular literature. He has written for us since days of the dear old Saturday Journal to which we believe he remitted the first literary efforts and therefore like many of our present corps of writers is one of our literary family.

720 Pluck & Lucks below No. 875, all different.

720 Work & Wins complete to No. 732 excepting three numbers.

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J. Reischmann

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Chas. H. H. Bragin

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I have the following novels for sale or trade:

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There are, also, hundreds of novels that I wish to buy.

ROY E. MORRIS

221-6th St. S. W.

Mason City, Iowa

HENTY HINTS. #2**by W. B. Poage****BERIC THE BRITON**

Many of Col. Hentys early English tales are among his best and Beric the Briton is one of them.

This is a story of a young chief of a British tribe who takes part in Bodicea's insurrection. He is taken prisoner and to Rome. Here he has many adventures among them being a Gladiator. He finally returns to Britain and becomes the ruler of his people. This story give a very good picture of life in Britain at that time the lives of the people and an insight into the character and life of the Romans.

Anyone wanting to read stories along this same time might try Edel. The Druid by W. H. G. Kingsten and of a little later period try Puck of Peek's Hill by Rudyard Kipling.

#3**ONE OF THE 28th**

This story was also published under the title of A Tale of Waterloo. Col. Henty mentions in his Preface that this book has more of a Heroine than a Hero and also several publishers brings this out. As to how I see the story it is the usual Boys story with Boy hero and he goes thru the usual many exciting adventures. The Mother of course takes a leading role in the recovery of the missing will but this takes very few chapters of the book.

The story starts out in England where our hero on a night fishing trip is run down by a French Privateer, rescued and carried with them to the West Indies. After several months there his escape or release occurs and he returns to England. He is offered a commission in the Army and accepts and takes part in the battles of Quatre Bras and Waterloo.

He is wounded in the battle of Waterloo and losing an arm he leaves the Army and returns home when at that time his Mother had discovered the hidden will which leaves half of a large estate to the hero and the other half to a boyhood girl chum and of course they marry and settle down to happiness and good times. One of among many of the Hentys that can be classed as his best.

Along this same time one might

read The Great Shadow, A. Conan Doyle and Vengeance is Mine, Andrew Balfour.

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Beadles Dime Library #161-164.

Beadles Half Dime Library #186 265 462 220 667 1097 137 1105 126 103.

Hogarth House Shilling Novels—Jack Harkaway in America, King of Diamonds, Alls Well, The Pirates Isle. Price \$1.00 each.

Peter Arno's Circus, 1931, by Horace Liveright. Good condition, well illust., dust wrapper, \$2.00.

Pink Lemonade, by Maxwell F. Coplan, 1945, 1st ed. Well illust., dust wrappers, fine, \$2.50.

Circus Day, by Claude A. Lewis & Mabel Cobb. Fine, 1945, 1st ed. Well illust. Dust wrappers, fine, \$1.00.

History of Meridian Lodge, A. F. & A. M. of Natick, Mass., by Charles Henry, 1892, \$1.00.

Ports and Happy Places, by C. S. Parker, good, illust., bound in red cloth, 310 pages, \$1.00.

A Selection of Irish Melodies, bd into a vol., over 25 selected pieces by Sir John Stevenson Muf Doc. London, 1812. Worth \$5.00, my price \$2.50, good.

What nos. do you need in Zane Grey Western Magazines, I may have them.

Frank Leslie's Boys of America (1874) #3 8 10 11 12 13 15 16 18 20 21 26 27 29 30 31 32 35 37 41 50, Price \$1.00 each.

The Green Rayon, in French, pub. in Paris in the 1880's. Bd, fine, by Jules Verne, \$1.00.

A bd. vol. Student and Schoolmate. Vol. 5, 1858. No outside wrappers, fair, 50c.

Illustrations of the Legend of Sleepy Hollow. Designed and Etched by F. C. Dorley, 1849. Bd. good. Illust. \$1.00.

Hawthorne's Scarlet Letter with illustrations by F. C. Dorley. Bd. in Morocco, 1884, good \$1.00.

Georgia Scenes. Characters, Incidents, etc. in the first half century of the Republic. 2nd ed. 1859. Pub. by Harper & Brothers, New York, by a native Georgian. Illust. \$1.25.

Descriptive key to the painting of the Repulse of Longstreet's Assault at the Battle of Gettysburg. 1870—nice, 50c.

The Gasoline Automobile by Geo. W. Hobbs, 1915, good, illust. \$5.00.

About 3000 cutouts for pasting in scrap books, mostly duplicates, nice, old, \$9.00 for the lot. Cheap is right. These are colored and came out in the early '90s.

Buffalo Bill and his Wild West Companions, pub. by Donahue & Co., nice, 60c.

The Life of Abraham Lincoln, by Ida M. Tarbell, a well known writer. Bd. vols. 1 to 4 complete. Illust. Pub. by the Lincoln Historical Society, New York. Some wonderful stuff in here. Nice paper, bd. good. Worth \$12.00, my price \$5.00 for all 4 vols.

Ralph F. Cummings

Fisherville, Mass.